

California AR Buying Guide

As the title states, this is a buying guide. For the legal details and rifle configurations see my flyer at <http://www.paul.net/guns/CaliforniaRifles.pdf>. Also download the assault weapon ID flowchart at <http://www.calguns.net/caawid/flowchart.pdf>.

Buy a lower receiver. Any brand will do, as long as it's off-list. Prices typically range from \$100 to \$200. This is the controlled part, the serialized firearm. You'll have to fill out the 4473 and DROS paperwork at a gun shop, pay the fees, and wait 10 days. You can either buy one from a local shop that stocks OLLs or you can order one and have it shipped to a local FFL who accepts OLL transfers, and pay the shipping and transfer fees. (Also as of late 2009, many gun shops are now selling fully assembled AR rifles in California, offering both MonsterMan grip and Bullet-Button configurations.)

Buy the lower parts kit, stock, and upper receiver assembly (with barrel). Lower parts kits cost \$60 to \$70, stocks \$60 to \$80, and complete uppers \$500 to \$600. You can order these directly from the manufacturer (like Bushmaster) or from an online retailer where you may get a better price. Again there are many brands and sources to choose from.

If you're going with a featureless build, buy a MonsterMan grip (<http://www.monstermangrip.com/>) or a U15 stock (<http://www.californiarifles.com/>). For a MonsterMan build, I'd also suggest getting an ambidextrous safety. If you're going with a fixed-mag build, buy a Bullet-Button, and a 10-round magazine.

Build your lower. Instructions are here:

<http://www.ar15.com/forums/topic.html?b=3&f=4&t=226782>
<http://www.calguns.net/calgunforum/showthread.php?t=32797>

Bay Area shops that stock OLL rifles:

<http://www.independencearmory.com/>
<http://www.irvingtonarms.com/>

Out of state shops that are CA friendly:

<http://www.lanworldinc.com/>
<http://www.coldwarshooters.net/>
<http://www.ddsranch.com/>

Sonoma/Marin FFLs who accept OLL transfers:

Wael Hadid, <http://www.independencearmory.com/>

Common OLL Manufacturers:

CMMG, DSA, LMT, RRA, Stag

Who Really Makes the Lowers:

<http://www.calguns.net/calgunforum/showthread.php?t=50947>

Some Upper Receiver Manufacturers:

ArmaLite <http://www.armacite.com/>
Bushmaster <http://bushmaster.com/>
CMMG <http://cmmginc.secure-mall.com/>
DPMS <http://www.dpmsinc.com/>
LMT <http://www.lewismachine.net/>
RRA <http://www.rockriverarms.com/>
Stag <http://www.stagarms.com/>

Magazines:

High capacity magazines are not illegal to possess or use. They are only illegal to manufacture, sell, or import, so if you owned them before 2000, not only can you continue to use them (in featureless builds **only**) but you can buy replacement parts, including full magazine kits. A couple of good sources:

<http://www.cproductsllc.com/>
<http://www.44mag.com/>

The CA DOJ's position on magazine parts:

<http://www.hoffmang.com/firearms/DOJ-large-cap-magazines-2005-11-10.pdf>

More CA DOJ and LEA documents of legal value:

<http://www.hoffmang.com/firearms/Lockyer%20Letter%20-%20AB%202728.pdf>

http://www.hoffmang.com/firearms/Sacramento-PD-OLL_Training_Bulletin-2008-11-18.pdf

<http://www.hoffmang.com/firearms/Orange-County-AW-Training-Bulletin-2010-01-12.pdf>

Important note: If you are ever cited, charged, arrested, or harassed by LEOs for possessing / using a legally configured AR or AK type rifle, The CalGuns Foundation (<http://calgunsfoundation.org/>) will offer legal assistance free of charge. Their phone number is 800-556-2109.